

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 11 and AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An image compression device comprising:

an encoding unit performing predictive coding of an input video sequence having a plurality of frames;

a first unit leaving a first set of frames at predetermined intervals in the input video sequence to cause the encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first set of frames;

a second unit discarding a second set of frames, which lie between two frames of the first set of frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each frame in the second set of frames and perform predictive coding of a corresponding frame of the first set of frames immediately preceding a frame from the second set of frames; and

an output unit outputting only encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit in association with the first unit as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence, thereby reducing the number of frames originally contained in the input video sequence prior to compression, wherein

the first set of frames and the second set of frames include a plurality of video packs each of which includes header information, and

the header information is read to determine whether a currently read video pack is a head-end video pack in the first set of frames or the second set of frames.

2. (Previously Presented) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the first set of frames are either intra-coded pictures or predictive-coded pictures and the second set of frames are predictive-coded pictures.

3. (Previously Presented) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

4. (Original) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit, the first unit, the second unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder.

5. (Original) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the first unit and the second unit are arranged in an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder.

6. (Currently Amended) An image compression method comprising:

leaving a first set of frames at predetermined intervals in an input video sequence having a plurality of frames to cause an encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first set of frames, said encoding unit performing predictive coding of the input video sequence;

discarding a second set of frames, which lie between two frames of the first set of frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each frame in the second set of frames and perform predictive coding of a corresponding frame of the first set of frames immediately preceding a frame from the second set of frames; and

outputting only encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit in association with the leaving step as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence, thereby reducing the number of frames originally contained in the input video sequence prior to compression, wherein

the first set of frames and the second set of frames include a plurality of video packs each of which includes header information, and

the header information is read to determine whether a currently read video pack is a head-end video pack in the first set of frames or the second set of frames.

7. (Previously Presented) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the first set of frames are either intra-coded pictures or predictive-coded pictures and the second set of frames are predictive-coded pictures.

8. (Previously Presented) The image compression device according to claim 6 wherein the encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

9. (Original) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding, the leaving step, the discarding step and the outputting step.

10. (Original) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder so that the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding and the outputting step, and an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder is arranged so that the external control unit performs the leaving step and the discarding step.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The image compression method of ~~claim 11~~ claim 6, wherein a head-end count number is incremented by 1 each time it is determined that a video pack is a head-end video pack, and a frame is left in the input video sequence if a remainder from dividing the head-end count number by the predetermined interval is 0, and if the remainder is not 0, the frame is discarded.

13. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
retaining a first frame for each of a plurality of pictures in an input video sequence, each picture having a plurality of frames;
discarding frames after the first frame for each respective picture in the input video sequence; and
prediction coding each picture after a first picture in the input video sequence using the first frame of a respective preceding picture, thereby reducing a number of frames to be decoded wherein
the first frame includes header information to determine whether the corresponding plurality of pictures is a head-end set of pictures.